

# Backyard Wildlife Habitat

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Backyard birding is enjoying the wild birds that regularly visit your backyard. Most backyard birders do this easily by adding a few birdfeeders, a birdhouse or a bird bath to their yard. For more intense birding, designing bird-friendly landscaping can be both effective and rewarding.

## Aubrey C. Watson – Nashville

For over ten years Aubrey Watson of Nashville, TN has created and nurtured a backyard wildlife habitat for many types of animals, but mainly birds. Over those years he has developed a knack for attracting the same species of birds year after year to his yard. He has transformed his backyard into a mini wildlife habitat in the heart of Metro Nashville. His yard is groomed with native plants, specialty bird houses and watering holes.

Aubrey's passion for backyard birding is complemented by his love of photography. It has allowed him to capture photos of rare birds in Tennessee such as the Ruby Crown Kinglet and the Nuthatch.

## How to Become Certified

It's very simple to create a backyard oasis. Most backyards already have all of the basic elements needed to attract birds and other wildlife. These include food, safety and shelter, water, and proper nesting sites. Once all of these components are in place you can experience the joy of backyard bird watching. What begins as a hobby may eventually become a lifelong passion. [Becoming Certified](#)



## Must Haves for a Backyard Habitat:

- **Food** – Plant native forbs, shrubs and trees
- **Safety and Shelter** – Create a place to hide from predators and inclement weather
- **Water** – Provide clean water from various sources and forms
- **Nesting Sites** – Provide a place to raise their offspring



*Cooper's Hawk (picture by Aubrey C. Watson)*

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*Cedar Waxwing (picture by Aubrey C. Watson)*



*Female Cardinal (picture by Aubrey C. Watson)*

